

13 September 1983

Dr. Edwin A. Thompson  
NND 18-W NA Building  
Records Declassification Division  
National Archives and Records Service  
Washington, D. C. 20408

Dear Dr. Thompson:

The enclosed letter from Dr. William Z. Slany, the Historian, Department of State, requests that we authorize a Department of State historian, Dr. David W. Mabon, access to the papers of General J. Lawton Collins. We understand that Dr. Mabon is carrying out research on the Vietnam War, 1955, for the Department of State's Foreign Relations of the United States series.

We understand that the Department of State will certify Dr. Mabon's Top Secret and compartmented information clearances directly to you. We are therefore glad to authorize him access to all CIA-related material in the Records Declassification Division at the level of his clearances or lower that is pertinent to the subject of his research.

We shall also enclose a copy of our "CIA Records Access Policy" to guide your office in handling these CIA documents. As indicated in paragraph three of this policy statement, Dr. Mabon is free to take notes and to have copies made of CIA documents, so long as the National Archives collects and sends these notes and copies to this office. After CIA review, we shall send Dr. Mabon the documents and notes released, and notify him (and you) of any material that cannot be released.

We are forwarding a copy of this authorization to the Historian, Dr. Slany, at the Department of State.

With many thanks for your help,

Yours sincerely,

*/s/*  
J. Kenneth McDonald  
Chief Historian

Enclosures



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

September 8, 1983

Dear Dr. McDonald:

The Office of the Historian is in the process of collecting the official diplomatic record of the Vietnam War for presentation in the Department of State's documentary series Foreign Relations of the United States. The Historian wishes to designate a senior historian to review the Papers of General J. Lawton Collins, which are currently in custody of the Records Declassification Division of the National Archives and Records Service. Access to these papers during September would greatly facilitate the scheduled compiling work of this Office.

I request authorization for an assigned official staff historian to review and copy documents from the Collins Papers which originated with the Central Intelligence Agency or in which the CIA has an interest.

Access is requested for the purpose of research and copying only. It is understood that documents selected for copying will be subject to CIA review prior to transmission to the Department of State. Any CIA documents ultimately selected for use in Foreign Relations will be resubmitted to the CIA for clearance and declassification review in accordance with long-standing procedures.

The official staff historian designated to carry out research in the National Archives is:

NAME  
David W. Mabon

Mr. Mabon has

Sincerely,

William Z. Slany  
The Historian, Office of the Historian  
Bureau of Public Affairs

Dr. J. Kenneth McDonald  
History Staff  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505.